

In closing, my colleagues, I ask you to join me in both paying tribute and recognizing the life and service of William C. Coleman, Jr.

HONORING MR. LEON PAGE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Leon Page, who passed away last Monday, December 10, 2012.

Mr. Page was a community leader and philanthropist who helped organize Franklin Bank and Trust and served as chairman of the bank's board of directors for 45 years.

In his 90 years of life, Mr. Page helped open and lead what became the largest bank in Franklin, Kentucky, an area I have the privilege of representing in the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

Mr. Page was active in all facets of the community. He was instrumental in industrial development in Franklin and Simpson County and was active in various community organizations. Having served as President for both the Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin Rotary Club, Mr. Page also helped organize the Caveland Girl Scout Council and was treasurer of the Quarterback Club.

Leon Page served on the Kentucky Bankers Association and various boards and councils at Western Kentucky University. He also established a scholarship fund at Western Kentucky University that awards a four-year scholarship to a Franklin-Simpson High School graduate who majors in business each year.

I join the family, friends, and entire Franklin, Kentucky community in mourning the passing of this great man. He demonstrated the best of the values found throughout the First Congressional District of Kentucky. He is someone who, despite his personal success, will best be remembered as inspiring and helping guide others to achieve success for themselves, and a man who graciously gave back to a community that had given him so much.

TRIBUTE TO ABRAM "CAPTAIN" COLES, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing first responder from Columbia, South Carolina. Abram "Captain" Coles, Jr. passed away on December 12, 2012, at the age of 87. He devoted 35 years of service to the Columbia Fire Department that he helped integrate, and this remarkable man will be sorely missed.

Abram Coles, Jr. was born July 7, 1925 in Hopkins, South Carolina to Abram and Patsy Gunter Coles. He was educated in the public schools of Richland County and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia in 1943.

After graduation, Abram was inducted into the U.S. Navy and served from 1943 to 1946.

One of the highlights of his tour of duty was accompanying General Patton on his return from Europe to the United States.

After completing his military service, Abram enrolled at Benedict College in Columbia, and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. In 1953, he became one of the original eight African Americans to join the Columbia Fire Department. He was assigned to the Harden Street Fire Station. While employed as a fireman, he taught classes and rose through the ranks to become the first African-American Captain in Columbia.

Abram was also very active in many professional organizations including the South Carolina Firefighters Association, and was the 2002 President of the Retired Columbia Firefighter's Association. He was also a member of the Townsman's Club of Columbia, where he served as president for several years.

Abram was an avid bridge player and enjoyed gardening and fishing. In his spare time, he painted homes and businesses and enjoyed repairing just about anything.

Abram was baptized at an early age at Zion Benevolent Baptist Church in Hopkins. After relocating to Columbia, he joined First Calvary Baptist Church and served there for many years. Later, he became a member of St. Luke Episcopal Church of Columbia where he served with the men's club until his health declined.

He was married to Lillie Mae Weston for 33 years until her death. In 1988, he married Jacqueline Parks. Abram had one daughter, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of this ordinary man. I, like so many others in Columbia, South Carolina, am proud to call Abram Coles, Jr. a friend. He made a lasting impression on his community and all who knew him, and that is a tremendous legacy.

IN MEMORY OF SENATOR DANIEL INOUE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Senator DANIEL INOUE of Hawaii. Senator INOUE was an extraordinary leader, family man, and American hero. He leaves behind his wife Irene and son Ken, as well as countless friends and constituents who mourn his passing. He was 88.

Senator INOUE served nobly in World War II and was awarded a Medal of Honor. He then continued to devote his life to our Nation and the State of Hawaii by becoming the state's first congressman as well as a nine-term senator. He was eventually appointed to the prestigious position of Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and in his work he was always mindful of strengthening our national security and fulfilling our promises to our veterans. Many of my constituents have family and friends in Hawaii, and I know they all directly benefited from his hard work and commitment to the values of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, Senator INOUE was a model of integrity, courage, and bipartisanship. His

presence will be sorely missed, but I know his memory will inspire our leaders in years to come. I extend my thoughts and prayers to his family and loved ones. I hope they find some comfort in knowing the incredible legacy he leaves behind in hearts across the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 627 & 628, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both rollcall votes.

MOROCCAN AUTONOMY PLAN

HON. DAVID RIVERA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I ran for Congress because I believe in the greatness of the American people, the nobility of our national ideals, and the eminence of our principles and rights that have made America that shining city upon a hill.

But there are still many peoples who yearn for freedom and basic human liberties. The Sahrawi people of Western Sahara have been trapped in dreadful and oppressive conditions for over thirty years with the support and enabling of a compromised and corrupt Algerian government and its puppet regime, the Polisario Front.

The Polisario instituted mass kidnappings of Sahrawis from their homes into the Tindouf region in Western Algeria. The majority of these refugees have remained warehoused and imprisoned in Tindouf's sprawling camps for 35 years.

The Polisario partners and collaborates with the likes of Cuba, whose military distributes food in the camps on a quid pro quo basis and "educates" children who have been reportedly stolen from their parents, and Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb.

The Government of Morocco has advanced an Autonomy Plan that does address these issues and provides a clear, simple, transparent and democratic solution to the long drawn out Sahara crisis. This is where America's support should lie.

Mr. Speaker, the United States can and must continue to advance fundamental human rights, freedom and democracy as we, in this chamber, continue to work together for peace, justice, and human dignity in the Western Sahara.

THE MOROCCAN INITIATIVE IN THE WESTERN SAHARA

The Moroccan initiative comes in response to repeated requests of the United Nations Security Council and several of its key members, including the United States, that Morocco propose a solution to this longstanding problem that could facilitate the opening of negotiations for a "just, durable and peaceful" political solution.

After nearly a decade of trying to bring the Polisario and Morocco to agreement to conduct a referendum to determine the territories future, Kofi Annan, then Secretary

General, and James Baker, then Personal Envoy for the Western Sahara, reported to the Security Council that it was not possible to achieve agreement between the Polisario and Morocco on the central issue of who should be permitted to vote in a referendum. Consequently, Annan and Baker recommended that the Security Council encourage Morocco and the Polisario to enter into direct negotiations to find a compromise political solution. The Security Council accepted the assessment of Annan and Baker that a referendum would not be possible, and began a process carried through several years of UNSC resolutions calling for direct negotiations.

James Baker proposed two such compromise political solutions based on the underlying assumption that the proposals would allow Morocco to remain sovereign in the Western Sahara, but that the territory would benefit from a substantial autonomy that would allow it to become self-governing. Morocco accepted the first Baker proposal as the basis for direct negotiations, but the Polisario refused. The Polisario accepted the second Baker proposal, but Morocco refused since it did not allow for direct negotiations between the parties on the terms of the arrangement. The Moroccan proposal is the first and only proposal to come from one of the Parties to the conflict in response to the Security Council encouragements. In various forms, the Polisario has continued to insist that the referendum be held, and threatens a renewal of hostilities and the eviction of the United Nations peacekeeping force from the territory under its control, despite the fact that the Security Council repeatedly has made clear that this solution is no longer viable.

SUMMARY OF THE MOROCCAN INITIATIVE:

The initiative is the product of a year long internal and foreign Moroccan consultation process. All sectors of the Sahrawi population were included in the consultations and the views of foreign governments and expert international authorities were sought before the plan was finalized for presentation to the United Nations.

The plan itself represents an outline for a political solution that traces what Morocco considers to be the broad scope of an autonomy arrangement for the Western Sahara. It does not go into extensive detail on its various aspects on the assumption that such specific arrangements should be the result of direct negotiations rather than the imposition of only one of the parties to the dispute.

The plan provides for a local elected legislature that would subsequently elect an executive authority. It also would establish a separate judiciary for the autonomous region with competence to render justice on matters specific to the autonomous status of the region. The legislature would elect a chief executive.

The formula proposed by Morocco would ensure majority representation in the legislature for Sahrawi inhabitants of the autonomous region, while also ensuring credible legislative representation for non-Sahrawis who have been long-time residents in the territory. Residents of the autonomous region would also continue to elect representatives to the national legislature.

The government of the autonomous region would have exclusive authorities on some issues, shared authority with the central government of Morocco on others and consultative rights on authorities that remain reserved to the central government and that effect the region.

The autonomous government would control local administration, local police, education, cultural development, economic development, regional planning, tourism, in-

vestment, trade, public works and transportation, housing, health, sports and social welfare. It would have taxing authorities to support these functions and would continue to receive funding from the central budget as well. It would be able to establish foreign regional trade relations offices and would have consultative rights on other sovereign foreign agreements affecting the region.

The central government would retain exclusive jurisdiction over the normal elements of sovereign authority: national defense, currency, postal, and foreign affairs and religion, over which the Monarchy has a special status in Morocco.

The chief executive of the autonomous region would be elected by the legislature, but would be invested by and serve in the name of the Monarchy.

The initiative also envisages transitional bodies to guide the central government and the autonomous authority through the initial stages of implementation of the plan.

All individual rights guaranteed under the Moroccan Constitution would continue to apply to all residents of the autonomous region.

MOROCCAN INITIATIVE FOR NEGOTIATING AN AUTONOMY STATUTE FOR THE SAHARA REGION

I. MOROCCO'S COMMITMENT TO A FINAL POLITICAL SOLUTION

1. Since 2004, the Security Council has been regularly calling upon "the parties and States of the region to continue to cooperate fully with the United Nations to end the current impasse and to achieve progress towards a political solution."

2. Responding to this call by the international community, the Kingdom of Morocco set a positive, constructive and dynamic process in motion, and pledged to submit an autonomy proposal for the Sahara, within the framework of the Kingdom's sovereignty and national unity.

3. This initiative is part of the endeavors made to build a modern, democratic society, based on the rule of law, collective and individual freedoms, and economic and social development. As such, it brings hope for a better future for the region's populations, puts an end to separation and exile, and promotes reconciliation.

4. Through this initiative, the Kingdom of Morocco guarantees to all Sahrawis, inside as well as outside the territory, that they will hold a privileged position and play a leading role in the bodies and institutions of the region, without discrimination or exclusion.

5. Thus, the Sahara populations will themselves run their affairs democratically, through legislative, executive and judicial bodies enjoying exclusive powers. They will have the financial resources needed for the region's development in all fields, and will take an active part in the nation's economic, social and cultural life.

6. The State will keep its powers in the royal domains, especially with respect to defense, external relations and the constitutional and religious prerogatives of His Majesty the King.

7. The Moroccan initiative, which is made in an open spirit, aims to set the stage for dialogue and a negotiation process that would lead to a mutually acceptable political solution.

8. As the outcome of negotiations, the autonomy statute shall be submitted to the populations concerned for a referendum, in keeping with the principle of self-determination and with the provisions of the UN Charter.

9. To this end, Morocco calls on the other parties to avail the opportunity to write a new chapter in the region's history. Morocco is ready to take part in serious, constructive

negotiations in the spirit of this initiative, and to contribute to promoting a climate of trust.

10. To achieve this objective, the Kingdom of Morocco remains willing to cooperate fully with the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy.

II. BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE MOROCCAN PROPOSAL

11. The Moroccan autonomy project draws inspiration from the relevant proposals of the United Nations Organization, and from the constitutional provisions in force in countries that are geographically and culturally close to Morocco. It is based on internationally recognized norms and standards.

A. POWERS OF THE SAHARA AUTONOMOUS REGION

12. In keeping with democratic principles and procedures, and acting through legislative, executive and judicial bodies, the populations of the Sahara autonomous Region shall exercise powers, within the Region's territorial boundaries, mainly over the following:

Region's local administration, local police force and jurisdictions;

In the economic sector: economic development, regional planning, promotion of investment, trade, industry, tourism and agriculture;

Region's budget and taxation;

Infrastructure: water, hydraulic facilities, electricity, public works and transportation;

In the social sector: housing, education, health, employment, sports, social welfare and social security;

Cultural affairs, including promotion of the Saharan Hassani cultural heritage;

Environment.

13. The Sahara autonomous Region will have the financial resources required for its development in all areas. Resources will come, in particular, from:

Taxes, duties and regional levies enacted by the Region's competent authorities;

Proceeds from the development of natural resources allocated to the Region;

The share of proceeds collected by the State from the development of natural resources located in the Region;

The necessary funds allocated in keeping with the principle of national solidarity;

Proceeds from the Region's assets.

14. The State shall keep exclusive jurisdiction over the following in particular:

The attributes of sovereignty, especially the flag, the national anthem and the currency;

The attributes stemming from the constitutional and religious prerogatives of the King, as Commander of the Faithful and Guarantor of freedom of worship and of individual and collective freedoms;

National security, external defense and defense of territorial integrity;

External relations;

The Kingdom's juridical order.

III. APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE FOR THE AUTONOMY STATUTE

27. The Region's autonomy statute shall be the subject of negotiations and shall be submitted to the populations concerned in a free referendum. This referendum will constitute a free exercise, by these populations, of their right to self-determination, as per the provisions of international legality, the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

28. To this end, the parties pledge to work jointly and in good faith to foster this political solution and secure its approval by the Sahara populations.

29. Moreover, the Moroccan Constitution shall be amended and the autonomy Statute incorporated into it, in order to guarantee

its sustainability and reflect its special place in the country's national juridical architecture.

30. The Kingdom of Morocco shall take all the necessary steps to ensure full integration, into the nation's fabric, of persons to be repatriated. This will be done in a manner which preserves their dignity and guarantees their security and the protection of their property.

31. To this end, the Kingdom of Morocco shall, in particular, declare a blanket amnesty, precluding any legal proceedings, arrest, detention, imprisonment or intimidation of any kind, based on facts covered by this amnesty.

32. Once the parties have agreed on the proposed autonomy, a Transitional Council composed of their representatives shall assist with repatriation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed elements who are outside the territory, as well as with any other action aimed at securing the approval and implementation of the present Statute, including elections.

33. Just like the international community, the Kingdom of Morocco firmly believes today that the solution to the Sahara dispute can only come from negotiations. Accordingly, the proposal it is submitting to the United Nations constitutes a real opportunity for initiating negotiations with a view to reaching a final solution to this dispute, in keeping with international legality, and on the basis of arrangements which are consistent with the goals and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

34. In this respect, Morocco pledges to negotiate in good faith and in a constructive, open spirit to reach a final, mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute plaguing the region. To this end, the Kingdom of Morocco is prepared to make a positive contribution to creating an environment of trust which would contribute to the successful outcome of this initiative.

35. The Kingdom of Morocco hopes the other parties will appreciate the significance and scope of this proposal, realize its merit, and make a positive and constructive contribution to it. The Kingdom of Morocco is of the view that the momentum created by this initiative offers a historic chance to resolve this issue once and for all.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER MARC BOLDT

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend and dedicated public servant. Marc Boldt was born in Vancouver, Washington, and has been a resident of Hockinson, Washington since 1985. I've known Marc since I was young and my family lived close to his farm where I picked blueberries along with my brothers. Marc was elected to the State Legislature in 1994 from Washington's 17th Legislative District where he served 5 terms as a state representative, until he was elected to the Board of Clark County Commissioners in 2004. His second term will end at the close of this year.

Throughout his time as an elected official, Marc Boldt has provided strong leadership and a willingness to put the people of Clark County first. He has been a business advocate, a tireless supporter of the agricultural community,

and a friend to the people he was elected to serve.

Adding to all of this, Marc and his wife Dawn have six children and three grandchildren. Marc is a current member of the Clark County Farm Bureau and has served over 18 years as a local youth leader and Sunday school teacher. He is a former member of the Hockinson School District Curriculum Committee and the Future Farmers of America—Clark County Chapter. Marc has served over 10 years as a local 4H Leader.

I believe his deep roots in our community have provided him with the passion and energy to serve the people who live here. When he's not in Commission meetings or visiting farms and businesses throughout the county, you'll find him serving the community in some other way. In the month of August, there's only one place to find Marc—the Clark County Fairgrounds. He'll be serving up BBQ sandwiches or handing change to customers, all in the name of supporting Young Life to try and provide a positive influence in the lives of Clark County teens.

His work on behalf of the people who live in Clark County has earned the respect of people of all political stripes.

While his service on the Board of Clark County Commissioners will end in January of 2013, Marc will no doubt continue to serve the people of Southwest Washington as a community leader. He is a loving husband, father, grandfather, public servant, and a friend to all. Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary man and public servant, Marc Boldt.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 2012, I unfortunately missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 627 and "aye" on rollcall 628.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JUSTIN KUNICK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and memory of a great Western New Yorker, Justin Kunick. Teacher and coach to many but inspiration to all, Kunick encouraged those around him to rise above the obstacles and put forth their best effort in the classroom, on the field and in all other arenas.

No stranger to obstacles, Kunick faced his first when he was born with a heart defect and underwent surgery to save his life. Two years later further complications temporarily paralyzed the right side of his body forcing him to become dominant from his left. With a complicated medical record, one of the last places you would expect Kunick to be attracted to was the baseball diamond, but that's exactly what happened.

Although he had lost the ability to operate fully from his right side, it did not stop him from pitching more games, 36 to be exact, than anyone in Keuka College history. After college Kunick left New York State, moving to Florida to teach chemistry and coach the game that he had come to love. He spent the next six years as an assistant coach at Ridge-wood High School before moving to Fivay as its schools head coach.

At Fivay, Kunick rebuilt the baseball program instilling discipline and encouraging perseverance. He developed close relationships with his players and created a reputation as a coach who would do anything for his boys. Eventually a new team motto sprouted from his leadership, rise above.

In February, Kunick encountered a new hurdle after being diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer. Living up to his team motto, he quickly underwent surgery and was back on the field the next week. In and out of the hospital, Kunick watched over his team contacting them by phone and text messages between innings.

On April 27th Justin Kunick lost his battle with cancer at the age of only 32. Although he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in his students and players. Kunick believed that you could overcome anything life threw at you; as long as you were giving it your all, you were rising above.

Mr. Speaker, today I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in celebrating the life and spirit of a great man who lived with enduring principles. It is my privilege to honor Justin Kunick's memory today.

HONORING THE STEVENS FAMILY IN AMERICA, 11 GENERATIONS ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the John Stevens Family on all of their great accomplishments as entrepreneurs and philanthropists, and to share the history of the family that founded the Stevens Institute of Technology. Stevens Institute of Technology was founded in 1870 and is named for a distinguished family of engineers and inventors who have made tremendous contributions to our nations' maritime and railroad systems. Stevens' 55-acre tree-shaded campus occupies part of the family's original estate, near the edge of the Hudson River at Castle Point in Hoboken, New Jersey overlooking Manhattan.

Stevens, also known as "The Innovation University," has a student population of more than 6,000 students and over 37,000 alumni. Alumni have leadership positions in many industries including construction, power generation, telecommunications, green energy, biotechnology, transportation, green energy and the financial community.

Today there are more than 400 descendants of the Stevens family throughout the United States and abroad. On October 6, 2012, they came to Stevens Institute of Technology for their first family reunion in more than 30 years to reconnect, to learn about their family history, and to gain an understanding of the many ways the university